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Shilo Sanders

Shilo Deion Sanders (born February 9, 2000) is an American former professional football safety. He played college football for the South Carolina Gamecocks, Jackson State Tigers and Colorado Buffaloes. He signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2025 as an undrafted free agent, but he was cut during the preseason. He is the son of NFL Hall of Famer Deion Sanders.

Early life

Sanders is the oldest child of Deion Sanders and Pilar Sanders. His parents are divorced. He has two older half-siblings: Deiondra and Deion, and two younger siblings, Shedeur and Shelomi.[1] Sanders attended Trinity Christian High School in Cedar Hill, Texas, where he played safety, wide receiver and return specialist. His father was the offensive coordinator at Trinity Christian High School throughout his son's high school career.

In his high-school career, he recorded 24 tackles, one pass deflection, five interceptions, and a fumble recovery, rushed for 45 yards and a touchdown, and hauled in 13 receptions for 199 yards and three touchdowns.[2] Sanders committed to play college football at the University of South Carolina over offers from 14 other schools.[3]

Shilo Sanders

Sanders in 2025

Profile	
Position	Safety
Personal information	
Born	February 9, 2000 Dallas, Texas, U.S.
Listed height	6 ft 0 in (1.83 m)

Listed weight	196 lb (89 kg)
Career information	
High school	Trinity Christian (Cedar Hill, Texas)
College	South Carolina (2019–2020) Jackson State (2021–2022) Colorado (2023–2024)
NFL draft	2025: undrafted
Career history	

- Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2025)*

* Offseason and/or practice squad member only

Awards and highlights

- Second-team All-SWAC (2021)

Stats (https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/S/SandSh01.htm) at Pro Football Reference

College career

South Carolina

As a freshman at South Carolina in 2019, Sanders recorded two tackles and a fumble recovery.[4] In week four of the 2020 season, he made ten tackles in a win over Auburn.[5] Sanders finished the shortened 2020 season with 32 tackles with one going for a loss, and a pass deflection.[6] After the season, he entered the NCAA transfer portal.[7]

Jackson State

Sanders transferred to Jackson State to continue his collegiate career.[8] In his first season with the Tigers in 2021 he notched 39 tackles, seven pass deflections, two forced fumble, and four interceptions which was tied for second in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).[9] For his performance on the season, Sanders was named second-team all-SWAC.[10] In 2022, he suffered an ACL injury which caused him to only play in seven games, where he recorded 20 tackles and an interception.[11] After the season, Sanders entered the NCAA transfer portal for the second time in his career.[12]

Colorado

Sanders transferred to Colorado to join his father and brother for the 2023 season.[13] In his team debut, he tallied ten tackles and helped the Buffaloes upset #17 TCU.[14] In week three of the 2023 season, Sanders had an 80-yard pick-six for Colorado's first score of the game and forced a fumble, helping Colorado beat their rival Colorado State.[15][16]

Statistics

Year	Team	Games		Tackles					Interceptions					Fumbles				
		GP	GS	Solo	Ast	Comb	TFL	Sk	Int	Yds	Avg	TD	PD	FR	Yds	TD	FF
2019	South Carolina	4	0	1	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	South Carolina	9	4	23	9	32	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2021	Jackson State	13	8	28	11	39	1	0.0	4	99	24.8	0	3	0	0	0	2
2022	Jackson State	7	2	15	5	20	1	0.0	1	0	0.0	0	5	0	0	0	0
2023	Colorado	11	11	55	15	70	1	0.0	1	80	80.0	1	3	1	0	0	4
2024	Colorado	8	8	38	17	55	2	1.0	0	0	0.0	0	1	1	6	1	1
FBS totals[17]		**32**	**23**	**117**	**41**	**158**	**4**	**1.0**	**1**	**80**	**80.0**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**5**
FCS totals[18]		**20**	**10**	**43**	**16**	**59**	**2**	**0.0**	**5**	**99**	**19.8**	**0**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Career[19]		**52**	**33**	**160**	**57**	**217**	**6**	**1.0**	**6**	**179**	**29.8**	**1**	**13**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**7**

Professional career

Pre-draft measurables

Height	Weight	Arm length	Hand span	40-yard dash	10-yard split	20-yard split	20-yard shuttle	Three-cone drill	Broad jump
5 ft 11⅞ in (1.83 m)	196 lb (89 kg)	31¾ in (0.81 m)	9½ in (0.24 m)	4.52 s	1.60 s	2.65 s	4.40 s	7.16 s	9 ft 5 in (2.87 m)
All values from Pro Day[20][21]									

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

After going unselected in the 2025 NFL draft, Sanders signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent.[22][23] During a preseason game against the Buffalo Bills on August 23, Sanders was ejected following an unnecessary roughness penalty for punching Bills tight end Zach Davidson after a play.[24] Head coach Todd Bowles said the punch was "inexcusable" in the NFL.[25] On August 26, Sanders was waived by the Buccaneers as part of final roster cuts.[26] On August 30, the NFL issued a $4,669 fine to Sanders for throwing a punch in the preseason game from which he was ejected.[27]

In May 2026, Sanders revealed that he had stopped training and had effective retired from professional football.[28]

Personal life

Sanders's younger brother, Shedeur, was drafted in the 5th round of the 2025 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns.

An October 2016 lawsuit filed in Dallas District Court alleged Sanders attacked a security officer. Following a dispute about Sanders disrupting a high school class, John Darjean claimed Sanders slammed his elbow into Darjean's chest and continued to hit Darjean after he fell. The case went to trial in 2022, but Sanders did not appear for the trial,[29] so a default judgment was entered against him.[30] The court ordered Sanders to pay Darjean $11.89 million.[29]

In October 2023, Sanders filed for bankruptcy, declaring he had $11.3 million in liabilities, including the court judgment against him.[30] The bankruptcy petition stated Sanders had $478,000 in assets, including a 2023 Mercedes valued at $75,900 and necklaces valued at $75,000.[30] Sanders' attorney amended the petition in December 2023 to reduce the value of his assets to $320,000. This reduction included the removal of the high-value necklaces from the list of assets as they were alleged to have been on loan pursuant to an NIL deal with Saki Diamonds.[30] Darjean is currently contesting the bankruptcy filing, alleging Sanders transferred funds received from NIL deals to his company, Big 21, LLC, as a way to improperly shield his assets from the judgment he obtained against Sanders personally.[30] Sanders has admitted he did not disclose several social media NIL deals and that he is the sole owner of Big 21 LLC and SS21 LLC, but denied improperly failing to disclose contracts with those companies related to his NIL deals.[29]

There were at least five investigations into the Sanders-Darjean incident. A 2024 examination by *USA Today* of those investigations reported that four of them "favored John Darjean". The fifth "initially sided" with Sanders, but after additional information surfaced, the investigators changed their position and decided that fault for the incident simply was "unable to be determined".[30]

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